

**REMARKS**

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 8, 2008. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 3, and 12 being in independent form. Claims 1, 3, and 12 have been amended hereby. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication JP2001/051944 (“the ‘944 application”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,918,040 (“Jarvis”). Claims 3, 5-6, 10, 12-13, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the ‘944 application. Claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the ‘944 application. Applicants have carefully considered the Examiner’s comments and the cited art, and respectfully submit independent claims 1, 3 and 12 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The ‘944 application relates to an approach for transferring data between a master circuit and a slave circuit where the clock speed of the master circuit is significantly faster than that of the slave clock speed. In the ‘944 application, the slave circuit can be reset only by internally generated reset control signals.

Jarvis relates to an approach for synchronizing a timer at a master circuit and a timer at a slave circuit so that the two circuits can have a synchronized timer with which to interpret time stamp information and the timer is unrelated to the system clocks of the present independent claims

In independent claims 1, 3 and 12, a master circuit (510) receives a system reset signal (SYSRST) and generates a reset control signal (RESET) which responds to the system reset signal (SYSRST). Also, a slave circuit (530) is reset in response to the reset control signal (RESET).

As such, the slave circuit (530) is reset using the system reset signal (SYSRST). The system reset signal (SYSRST) is generated outside of the master circuit (510) and the slave circuit (530). Therefore, the slave circuit (530) is reset by a reset control signal that is generated outside of the master circuit (510) and the slave circuit (530).

The cited art, taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the slave circuit is reset by a reset control signal that is generated outside of the master circuit and the slave circuit.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to greater emphasize this feature, namely, in independent claim 1, “the slave circuit is reset in response to the reset control signal using the system reset signal that is generated outside of the master circuit and the slave circuit” and accordingly, independent claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least this reason. Similarly, dependent claim 2 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least this reason.

Independent claim 3 has also been amended to greater emphasize this feature, namely, in independent claim 3, “a delay detection circuit ... generates a reset control signal in response to a system reset signal that is generated outside of a master circuit and a slave circuit.” Because this feature is neither taught nor suggested in the cited art, independent claim 3 is patentably distinct for at least this reason. Similarly, dependent claims 4-11 and 20 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 3.

Independent claim 12 has also been amended to greater emphasize this feature, namely, in independent claim 12, “a reset control signal [is generated] in response to the system reset signal that is generated outside of a master circuit and a slave circuit, if the detected delays are not identical to one another.” Because this feature is neither taught nor suggested in the cited art, independent claim 12 is patentably distinct for at least this reason. Similarly, dependent claims 13-19 are patentably distinct from the cited art at least owing to their dependence upon independent claim 12.

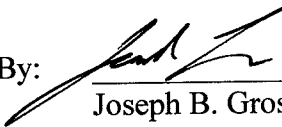
If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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